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CLAIMS

1. A process for manufacturing a coloured polyethylene terephthalate container or container preform comprising providing a moulded polyethylene terephthalate container or container preform, providing a colouration zone containing as a solution or dispersion in a liquid medium one or more colourants having a chemical affinity for polyethylene terephthalate, and in the colouration zone contacting the container or container preform with the one or more colourants in the liquid medium for a period of time and under conditions effective to cause at least a portion of the one or more colourants to migrate from the liquid medium and bind to the polyethylene terephthalate of the container or container preform.
- 2.. A process according to claim 1 which comprises providing a polyethylene terephthalate moulding composition and subjecting said polyethylene terephthalate moulding composition to a moulding step thereby to form the container or container preform.
3. A process according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the one or more colourants comprises a disperse dye.
4. A process for manufacturing a polyethylene terephthalate container or container preform having additive-imparted functionality comprising providing a

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moulded polyethylene terephthalate article, providing an additive impartation zone containing as a solution or dispersion in a liquid medium one or more additives having a chemical affinity for polyethylene terephthalate, and in the additive impartation zone contacting the container or container preform with the one or more additives in the liquid medium for a period of time and under conditions effective to cause at least a portion of the one or more additives to migrate from the liquid medium and bind to the container or container preform.

5. A process according to claim 4 wherein the one or more additives is selected from the group comprising UV filters, oxygen absorbers, antimicrobial agents, antioxidants, light stabilizers, optical brighteners, processing stabilizers, flame retardants and mixtures of two or more thereof.
6. A process according to any one of claims 1 to 6 wherein the effective conditions comprise a temperature of at least about 40°C.
7. A process according to claim 6 wherein the effective conditions comprise a temperature of at least about 60°C.
8. A process according to any one of claims 1 to 6 wherein the container or container preform is a bottle or bottle preform.
9. A method of making a blow moulded bottle from a polyethylene

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terephthalate moulding composition which comprises :

- i. providing a polyethylene terephthalate moulding composition;
- ii heating the polyethylene terephthalate moulding composition;
- iii extruding the hot polyethylene terephthalate moulding composition so as to form a bottle preform;
- iv contacting the bottle preform with a colourant having a chemical affinity for polyethylene terephthalate for a period of time and under conditions effective to cause binding of the colourant to the polyethylene terephthalate; and
- v blow moulding the bottle preform at a blow moulding temperature so as to form a coloured bottle.

10. A method of making a blow moulded bottle from a polyethylene

terephthalate moulding composition which comprises:

- a providing a polyethylene terephthalate moulding composition;
- b heating the polyethylene terephthalate moulding composition;
- c extruding the hot polyethylene terephthalate moulding composition so as to form a bottle preform;
- d blow moulding the bottle preform at a blow moulding temperature so as to form a bottle;
- e contacting the bottle with a colourant having chemical affinity for polyethylene terephthalate for a period of time and under conditions effective to cause binding of the colourant with the polyethylene

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terephthalate.

11. A method of making a blow moulded bottle from a polyethylene terephthalate moulding composition which comprises :

- I. providing a polyethylene terephthalate moulding composition;
- II heating the polyethylene terephthalate moulding composition;
- III extruding the hot polyethylene terephthalate moulding composition so as to form a bottle preform;
- IV contacting the bottle preform with an additive having a chemical affinity for polyethylene terephthalate for a period of time and under conditions effective to cause binding of the additive colourant to the polyethylene terephthalate; and
- V blow moulding the bottle preform at a blow moulding temperature so as to form a bottle with a desirable functionality attributable to the bound additive.

12. A method of making a blow moulded bottle from a polyethylene terephthalate moulding composition which comprises:

- A providing a polyethylene terephthalate moulding composition;
- B heating the polyethylene terephthalate moulding composition;
- C extruding the hot polyethylene terephthalate moulding composition so as to form a bottle preform;
- D blow moulding the bottle preform at a blow moulding temperature so as to

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form a bottle;

- E contacting the bottle with an additive having chemical affinity for polyethylene terephthalate for a period of time and under conditions effective to cause binding of the additive with the polyethylene terephthalate.

13. A process according to any one of claims 1 to 12 wherein the colourant or additive is targetted to a specific region of the container or container preform by regioselective contacting of the container or container preform with the colourant or additive.

14. A process according to any one of claims 1 to 13 wherein the amount of colourant or additive bound to the container or container preform can be controlled by controlling the duration of contact of the container or container preform with the colourant or additive.

15. A process according to any one of claims 1 to 14 wherein the amount of colourant or additive bound to the container or container preform can be controlled by controlling the concentration of colourant or additive in the solution/dispersion.

16. A process according to any one of claims 1 to 15 wherein the container or container preform requires no chemical pre-treatment prior to contacting the

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colourant or additive in order to provided effective binding therebetween.

17. A process according to any one of claims 1 to 16 wherein a first contact between the container or container preform and a colourant or additive is followed by a drying step and then a further contact between the container or container preform and different colourant or additive.

18. An article produced by a process according to any one of claims 1 to 17.

19. A moulded polyethylene terephthalate article according to claim 18 having an inside surface and an outside surface and a colourant or additive having a chemical affinity to polyethylene terephthalate bound predominantly to one, but not the other, of said surfaces.

20. A container or container preform according to claim 18 or claim 19 wherein the colourant or additive is bound below the surface of the container or container preform as a result of migration from a surface point of contact into the material of the polyethylene terephthalate container or container preform.